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ACTION-SE //

Chief, SE

Attn: [ ]

INFO: Chief, KUGOWN, [ ]

Attn: [ ]

OBOPUS

[ ] Visit to Athens - January 25 - February 1, 1954

1. In keeping with past practice, [ ] is filing a report on [ ] visit to [ ] which will serve to keep Headquarters properly informed and provide the field with a summary for future reference on various matters discussed.

2. The visit was originally laid on for three reasons: a) to bring Malament and Ockleshaw on the local scene to build up the prestige of the enlarged, reconstituted HTNEIGH and to give Malament an opportunity to exert some leadership within his own party in order to combat the well organized "professor" faction which had established a strong hold over the majority of XMALEDICTS in the Athens area, b) to bring together OBOPUS/VALUABLE Rome and Athens representatives for a meeting on P/W matters in view of our intention to build up the OBOPUS production (P/W) at this station., and c) for a routine Athens/Rome OBOPUS field representatives meeting.

3. As it turned out [ ] scrubbed [ ] and Malament's appearance as the latter completely wrote himself off as a party or HTNEIGH leader at JBPARTSON and nothing was to be gained by a repeat performance. Furthermore, the P/W meeting was scrubbed as VALUABLE did not wish to follow through at this time, nor was the timing propitious here in view of the uncertainty arising over the complement of the P/W staff. Hence the visit was devoted to current outstanding business plus a thorough consideration of HTNEIGH. As Headquarters will realize from discussions with [ ] and [ ] and from the paper that is currently being dispatched to Headquarters, our approach to the future of HTNEIGH was one of stock taking and assessment with the understanding a new approach to the problem was mandatory. At first we examined the possibility of continuing HTNEIGH in its present form with additional economy measures put into effect. The second proposition considered was the establishment of a skeleton operation committee and elimination of all repeat all window dressing. In both instances and in consideration of a total withdrawal as many factors as possible with a bearing on the situation were reviewed. When it appeared that acceptance of any of these propositions would leave us with a weakened HTNEIGH or without any organization and our contemplated action would not solve the problems that prompted the discussion in the first place, [ ] threw in the direct subsidy approach which was found to be worth study and development. The result of this is presumably now in your hands.

4. In addition to working on this paper and discussing the matters reviewed in the following paragraph, [ ] and [ ] visited Mr. Alek Schneer and Mr. Thomas Judd of the U.S. Embassy to bring them up to date on political developments in the

SECRET

SGAA-8426  
Page 2

Albanian emigre world to aid them in their conversations with the Greek Foreign Office on the subject.

5. With regard to routine business the following points were covered by all members of the OBOPUS staff concerned and are being reported by Pauline A. Quinipp:

a. International Commission of Jurists (OIRW-2493, 22 January 1954; [ ] 7376, 8 February 1954)

[ ] discussed the possibility of having [ ] stop in Athens while on his way to Istanbul for a private visit in order to interview Hamid Deli Mitrovica and any other refugee who might be able to furnish information for the International Commission of Jurists. OBOPUS/Athens agreed to arrange for any appropriate interview for [ ] [ ] decided that [ ] passage as far as Athens would be paid for by KUBARK. Final arrangements for transmittal of material to Jurists and other details were to be worked out by this station after [ ] arrival. [ ] was to cable Athens [ ] date of arrival, however, since [ ] visit [ ] -7376 has been received and this desk interprets the cable to mean that [ ] may never arrive in Athens to carry out his Jurist Commission assignment. Should [ ] arrive here he will be handled per [ ] discussions.

b. U.S.E.P. Refugee Camp in Italy

[ ] informed this office that U.S.E.P. is making progress in establishing a refugee camp in Italy and that the camp should be established and operating in three or four months. [ ] pointed out that this camp will no doubt give refuge to all those Albanians who will be dropped as a result of the developments as reported in paragraph 3. Liaison with U.S.E.P. will be such that certain refugees whose presence is not desired here can be placed in the Italian camp, this will be a definite advantage for us in handling certain disposal cases.

c. Case of AIKALE

[ ] reported that AIKALE is a thorn in the side of the German station and the likelihood existed that as a last resort he would have to be returned to Greece for disposal on one of the Greek islands. Details for this disposal would have to be arranged by the Athens station and the subject is a matter for future consideration.

d. AIQUAD and AILAKE

Prior to [ ] visit and before discussions reported in paragraph 3, OBOPUS Athens planned to ask [ ] if he had any use for AIQUAD and AILAKE at [ ]. However, in light of paragraph 3., it was agreed by all that [ ] had no use for these two men. [ ] suggested that they might at a later date be placed in the Italian U.S.E.P. camp. Since [ ]'s visit

AIQUAD was approached

AIQUAD was approached [ ] for employment on HTGRUBBY. AIQUAD politely refused this offer and at the present arrangements are being made to place both men in Lavrion. When final arrangements have been made OBOPUS Athens is closing both cases. In AIQUAD's case, however, DIR#37887, 10 February 1954 (not sent [ ]) keeps the door open for a short time.

e. HTNEIGH Membership Document

[ ] informed us that the [ ] was in the process of having 1000 HTNEIGH membership documents printed. As soon as the documents are available and publicity has been given the plan, the HTNEIGH representatives here will begin accepting applications for membership and will compile and forward to Rome the necessary information on each candidate. N.B. The Greek attitude toward open recruitment might restrict what can be done here.

f. HTNEIGH Membership Pins

[ ] has suggested that HTNEIGH pins be made and given to members in good standing. This idea was discussed with [ ], but dropped as [ ] pointed out it would be too expensive.

g. AICHIP and RN DOMINO

[ ] was asked if he could give any information which might reveal the reason for Radio Tirana not mentioning AICHIP and RNDOMINO along with the other members of the captured or killed Apple, Orange and Plum Tree Teams. [ ] could not furnish any information or explanation for the absence of AICHIP's and RNDOMINO's names in the radio announcement. [ ] did go on to say that there was some talk among the Albanians that it is possible that RNDOMINO was a double agent or a traitor. However, [ ] pointed out suspicion was cast on RNDOMINO some time ago when he and another Albanian did a job in Bari for [ ]. The job required contacting certain Communists and because of these contacts the exiled Albanian colony became suspicious of RNDOMINO. Unfortunately, [ ] has no documents on the Bari project, but [ ] is confident that Headquarters is aware of the details of this project and the persons involved.

h. AICHAP and Identity (1)

[ ] was informed that the HTGRUBBY staff had reported that AICHAP had refused his appointment to the General Committee of the broadened HTNEIGH. [ ] said he could not believe this report and that the delay in AICHAP's and Identity (1)'s arrival in Rome was a technical visa matter. Correspondence since [ ]'s departure has proven the rumor false and placed AICHAP and Identity (1) in Italy.

i. AILEAD

[ ] was informed that [ ] did not feel that AILEAD could be usefully employed because of lack of training, experience, and his long period out of the field of aviation.

j. HTNEIGH Representatives in Athens

[ ] was asked to approach Odley, Orness and Malament on furnishing a reliable member of their respective parties in Athens for the purpose of assisting in carrying out HTNEIGH activities. Malament was approached on this problem prior to [ ] visit and said he was unable to furnish anyone, however, [ ] agreed to bring the subject up again and perhaps if Malament could not furnish anyone, some other member of the "loyal" XNMALEDICTS could.

k. French Farm Scheme

[ ] agreed to put all the Albanians who went to France on the HTNEIGH mailing list, if we would furnish the names and addresses. OBOPUS is attempting to obtain this information from the various refugee organizations and when the list is completed it will be forwarded to Rome.

l. RNERANDY

[ ] was briefed on the background of RNERANDY's case and the action taken against him (See SGAA-7794, 13 January 1954). [ ] is submitting a full report shortly.

m. November Team Members' Allowance

[ ] and the OBOPUS staff decided that KUBARK should hold the accumulated allowances of those members of the November 1951 group who escaped to Yugoslavia until such time as their fate, loyalties and the circumstance of their stay in Yugoslavia <sup>CAN</sup> be determined. The accumulating allowance for these former agents was stopped as of November 1, 1953. It was unanimously agreed that the allowances for RNDOUTLET and RNDOUTOUR should continue as both men are serving jail sentences in Albania as a result of their activities in the behalf of the liberation of Albania. RNDOUTLET's allowance is given to his wife and child who reside in Tripoli; this is their only source of income.

n. OBEEK and QKPALING

[ ] stated that the [ ] would continue to produce and edit both publications for the present. [ ] was informed that [ ] is now publishing the 15th of February OBEEK and will handle all future OBEEKS. Furthermore, beginning in March copy will begin to be written here.

o. Identity (2) ([ ]-5863, 22 December 1953)

[ ] was briefed by [ ] on the case of Identity (2) who exfiltrated to Greece on October 7, 1953 and who subsequently revealed to [ ] and later [ ] that he had come to Greece on an espionage mission. Subject's mission was to work himself into HTNEIGH in Italy and eventually he would receive orders to make his way to the United States.

Plans were that

Plans were that Identity (2) would get to Italy through his important friends there, namely Malament. It was agreed by [ ] and [ ] that Identity (2) would very probably be of operational value in Rome, however, it was agreed that subject would be kept in Athens for the time being and the case would be brought to [ ] attention for a decision. Meanwhile correspondence between Malament and Identity (2) would begin. It is planned that Identity (2) will write Malament that he has important news from Vlone for Malament and that he, Malament, should make arrangements for his transfer to Italy. [ ] feels that Malament will ask him for advice and [ ] can control and advise all further steps. OBOPUS Athens will liaison with the Greeks here and arrange for Identity (2)'s necessary Greek documentation for Italy. (Complete details of the case are forthcoming. Developments since Braham's departure have postponed the initiating of correspondence between Identity (2) and Malament).

p. Identity (3) - ATTN: [ ] (SGAA-7754, 9 January 1954)

[ ] was asked if he had obtained any information on Identity (3), an Albanian woman reported to be a UDB agent living in Florence, who picks up information on HTNEIGH teams and other activities. [ ] was aware of the subject, but said any investigation of her activities would have to be done by [ ]'s staff. FOR [ ] If an investigation is initiated, OBOPUS Athens would appreciate receiving any significant information.

q. RNILLIAD Defection

[ ] briefed [ ] on the status quo of the RNILLIAD defection case. [ ] had hand carried the minutes of the recent Identity (4)-RNILLIAD meetings to Athens.

r. GACCESS

[ ] had little to offer on the handling or recontacting of GACCESS, but did add that he felt [ ] would have a negative reaction to recontacting and attempting to use GACCESS.

s. GADUNCE

[ ] was asked if he felt it would be worthwhile to send GADUNCE to Italy where GADUNCE would attempt to make contact with the captain and perhaps crew members of Albanian vessels that reach Bari or other Adriatic ports. [ ] replied in the negative and said that he had a man in Bari who could make any necessary contacts, therefore, having GADUNCE come to Bari on a project of this type would be overlapping and duplication which would involve the expenditure of unnecessary funds. Furthermore, if such a matter were to be pursued, it would have to be very closely coordinated with [ ]

t. Relations with the Italians

SECRET

FEB 16 1954

SGAA-8426  
Page 6

t. Relations with the Italians

[ ] briefed the concerned OBOPUS staff on his working relations with the Italians. (See OIRA-2485, 27 January 1954, page 8, paragraph I).

u. AIPOET

This matter was also discussed. [ ] agreed to look into his status via [ ] but subject's unexpected arrival in Athens this date rules the need for this out.

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Attachment under separate cover  
Identities (1) thru (4)

12 February 1954

WFH/lgk

Distribution:

- 3 - Washington, w/attachment under s.c. ✓
- 2 - [ ] w/attachment under s.c.
- 1 - Chrono, w/attachment
- 1 - Subject, w/attachment
- 1 - ID, w/attachment
- 2 - OBOPUS, w/attachment

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Separate cover attachment to SQAA-8426

Identity (1) - Ndus Ndoci

Identity (2) - Mehmet Kuci

Identity (3) - Drita Shehu

Identity (4) - Xhevdet Skenderaj

SECRET